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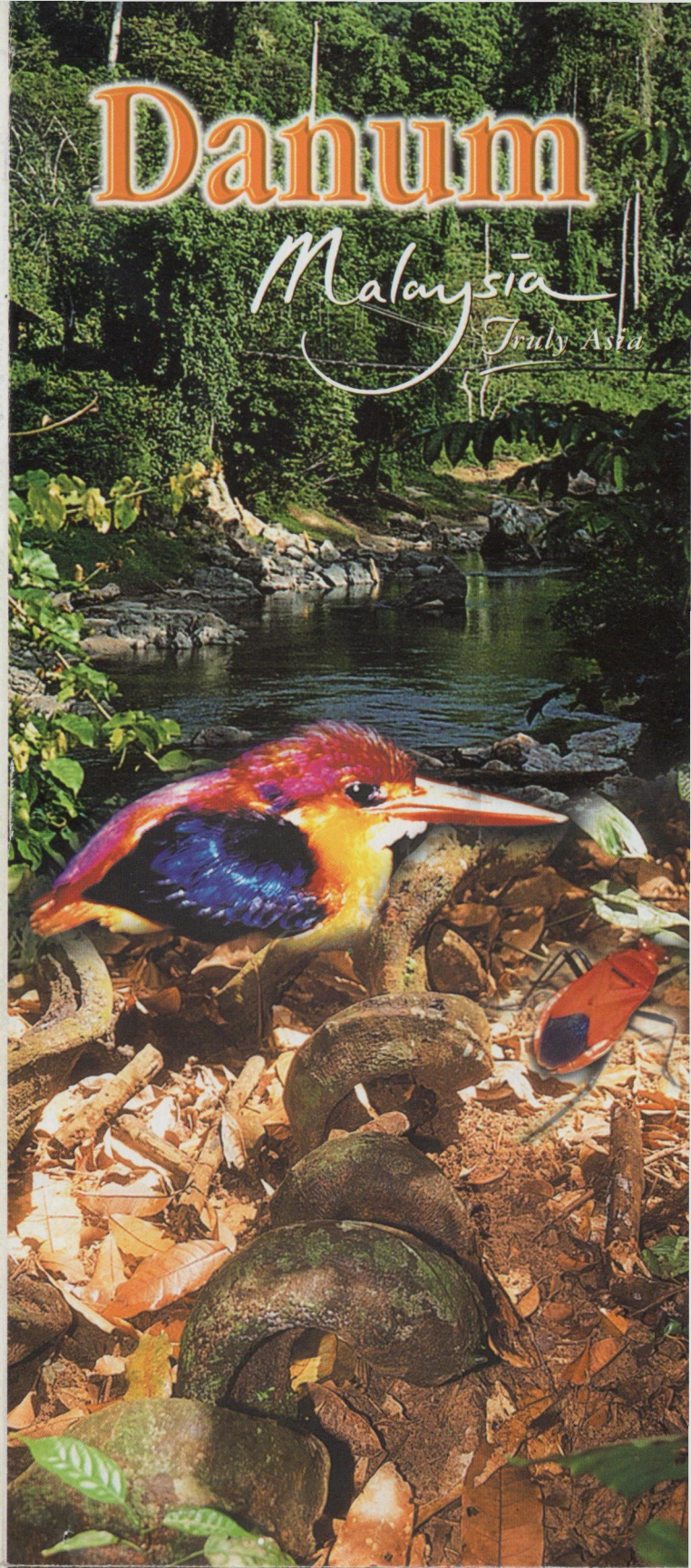
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Danum

Malaysia

Truly Asia



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Your Complimentary Copy

TRAFFICKING IN ILLEGAL DRUGS CARRIES THE DEATH PENALTY

Introduction

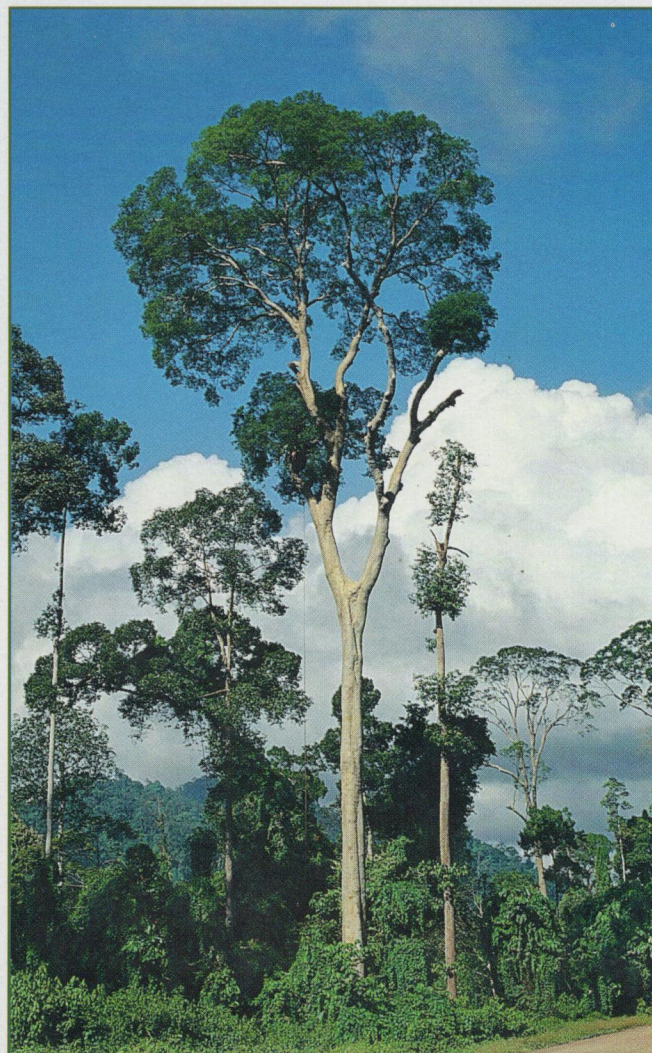


Nestled in the interior of Sabah, the Danum Valley Conservation Area is one of the last remaining preserves of primary lowland rainforest in Asia. The Danum Valley provides visitors with an unparalleled ecological experience into the wilds and wonders of ancient tropical forests. Within its 438 square kilometers the rich diversity of animal and plant life display the complex interaction of a natural, dynamic ecosystem found only in rainforests.

The hot and humid jungle teems with a variety of towering tropical trees, lingering lianas, exotic orchids and overhanging epiphytes. There are few places on earth that can provide such an awe-inspiring spectacle of nature in its original, pristine state.

Lowland Rainforest Habitat

As a pocket of lowland rainforest habitats designated for conservation, Danum Valley preserves the best of the natural world with many plant and animal species found only in the forests, rivers and wetlands of Borneo. Danum Valley's uniqueness lies in the dipterocarp forests covering over 90% of the area. These forests are a haven for indigenous tree species, like the Keruing Daun Besar, Selangan Jangkang, Mengaris and Kapur Biasa. Danum Valley is a sanctuary to over 110 mammals, including the rare Sumatran rhino and ten primate species among which are the Orangutan and the Proboscis monkey. The valley is also home to over 275 bird species



A towering denizen of Danum reaches for the sky

Wildlife

Undoubtedly, the wildlife in Danum makes for a memorable experience. Some of the rarest species in Borneo are found in this valley and it is here that sightings of the clouded leopard or Sumatran rhino have occurred.

For the nature lover, Danum Valley is a picture book of the exotic and beautiful. Marvel at the distinctive features of the long nosed Proboscis monkey and the membrane wings of the flying lemur; enjoy the acrobatic antics of the graceful gibbons as they swing rapidly among the trees, their whooping calls echoing through the forest at dawn as opposed to the resonant groans of the male orangutans which filter through the nighttime.

Some Mammals found in Danum Valley

Orangutan
Western tarsier
Flying lemur
Leopard cat
Yellow barking deer
Mousedeer
Sambar deer
Bearded pig
Malay civet
Long-tailed macaque
Slow loris
Clouded leopard
Giant flying squirrel
Lain pygmy squirrel
Malayan sun bear
Bateng
Smooth otter
Silvered langur
Proboscis monkey
Sumatran rhino
Asian elephant



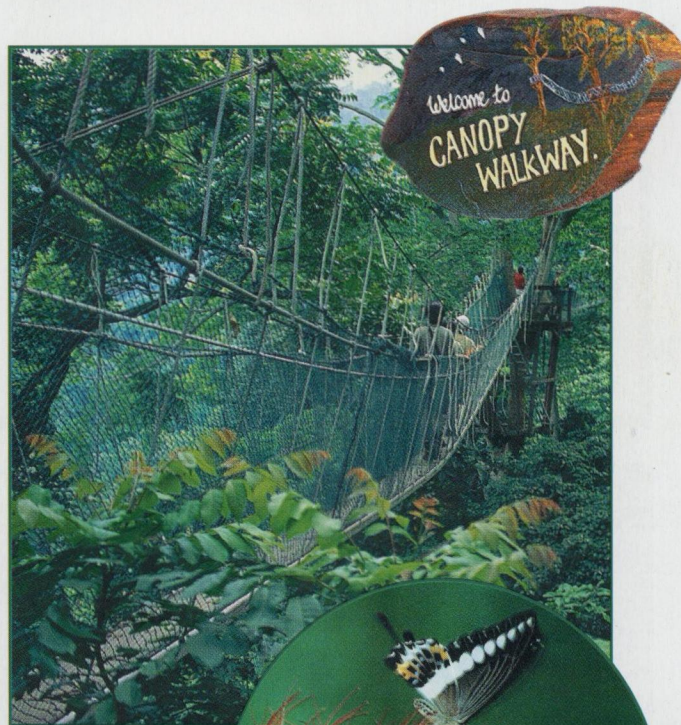
Western tarsier

Danum is also a bird watchers' paradise. The most recognizable are the majestic hornbills with their long beaks, colorful plumage and loud swooshing wingbeats. Some of Sabah's rarer residents such as the Great Argus, Bulwar's Pheasant, the Bornean Bristlehead and the Giant Pitta have also been sighted at Danum.

Jungle Trails

Standing under the green cover of the rainforest while being encircled by the immense diversity of plants, one cannot help but marvel at the spectacle which took nature centuries to complete.

A seemingly limitless bounty of orchids, ferns, fruit trees, lichens and lianas are unveiled as jungle trails through Danum take you into the heart of the natural world. With over 50 kilometers of cool hiking trails through the dipterocarp forest and riverine habitats, a trip into the forests become a new learning experience as knowledgeable guides point out things easily missed by untrained eyes. Take particular note that no visitor is allowed to trek or jungle walk without being accompanied by a guide for their own safety.



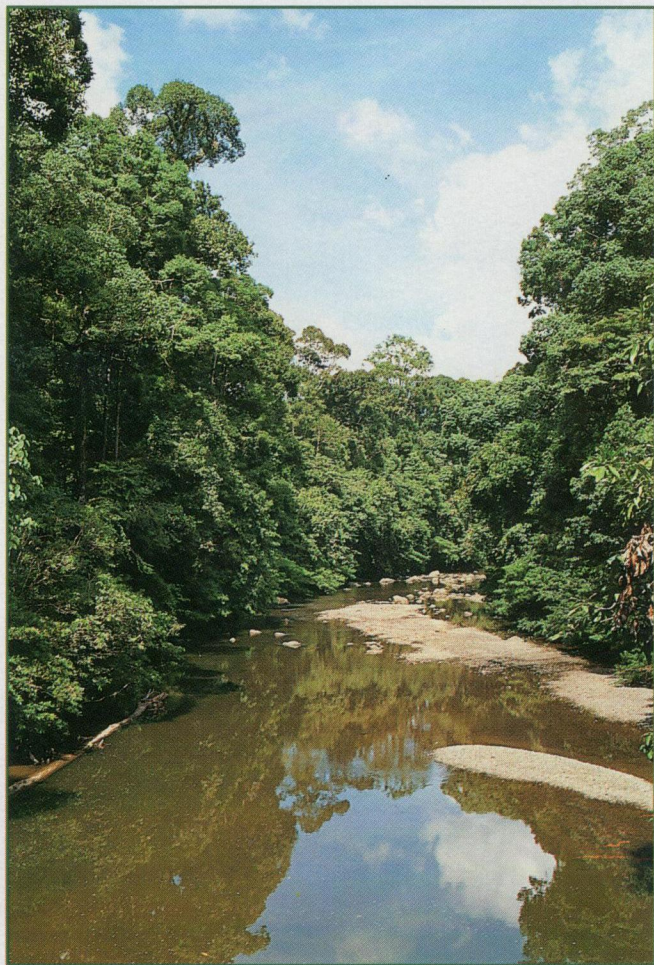
A 27 meter high canopy walkway gives visitors a bird's eye view



Follow the butterflies and find the pretty Pagoda blossoms

Danum Valley was formerly part of a 972,000 hectare forest concession assigned to the Sabah Foundation by the State Government. In May 1995, the area was declared a Class I (Protection) Forest Reserve by the Sabah Legislative Assembly, under the authority of the Sabah Forestry Department, which prohibits the issuance of timber and logging concessions.

Currently the Sabah Foundation works to make it a center for wildlife research, education and eco-tourism. The Foundation also provides infrastructural support in the form of road access, radio communication and manpower to assist the state authorities in conserving Danum and supporting the development of scientific and commercial establishments for research purposes which culminated in the opening of the Danum Valley Field Center in 1986.



The peaceful Segama River

and numerous reptiles, amphibians, fishes, countless insects and other fascinating creatures.

As one of the few private protected areas in Malaysia, Danum represents not only a natural treasure, but also an opportunity for land managers and conservationists to work together to sustain the biological resources unique to tropical habitats.

One of the premier research and education facilities in Southeast Asia, the Danum Valley Field Center oversees research projects, controls forest enrichment planning sites, education, training and wilderness recreation and is a meeting place for naturalists from all over the world.



Danum Valley Field Center

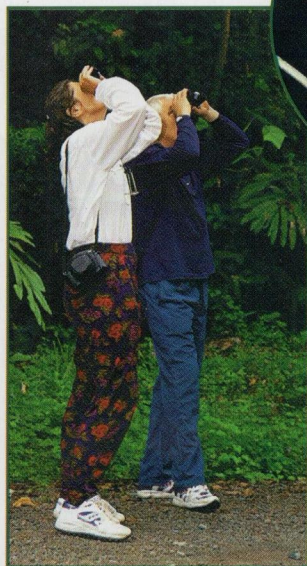
Some Birds found in Danum Valley

Bay owl
Bill fletcher
Crested fireback pheasant
Great argus pheasant
Black-backed kingfisher
Lesser green leafbird
Bornean flycatcher
Blue-headed pitta

Crimson sunbird
Asian fairy bluebird
Grey-breasted spiderhunter
Spectacled bulbul
Buffy fish owl
• Helmeted & wreathed hornbill
Bushy-crested & pied hornbill
Rhinceros hornbill

With every layer of forest providing shelter for Danum's birdlife, visitors must sharpen their senses and be constantly on the look out for elusive species by their calls, movements or markings. Patient scrutiny is sure to be rewarded with a decent list of sightings. Usually the sightings will intensify during the fruiting season between July to August.

Although not everyone's favorite creatures, insects are one of the Valley's most fascinating inhabitants. Danum supports thousands of these little known but very important inhabitants of the tropical rainforest. With only a few stinging bees and wasps, most of the insect colony are harmless and deserve the attention given to their larger counterparts. Take time to find butterflies like the Chocolate Soldier, look closely for the cleverly camouflaged Spiny Stick Insect which appears at first glance to be a twig; and listen to the song of the cicadas as they add their chirping to the natural music of Danum.



Bird watching is a rewarding experience at Danum

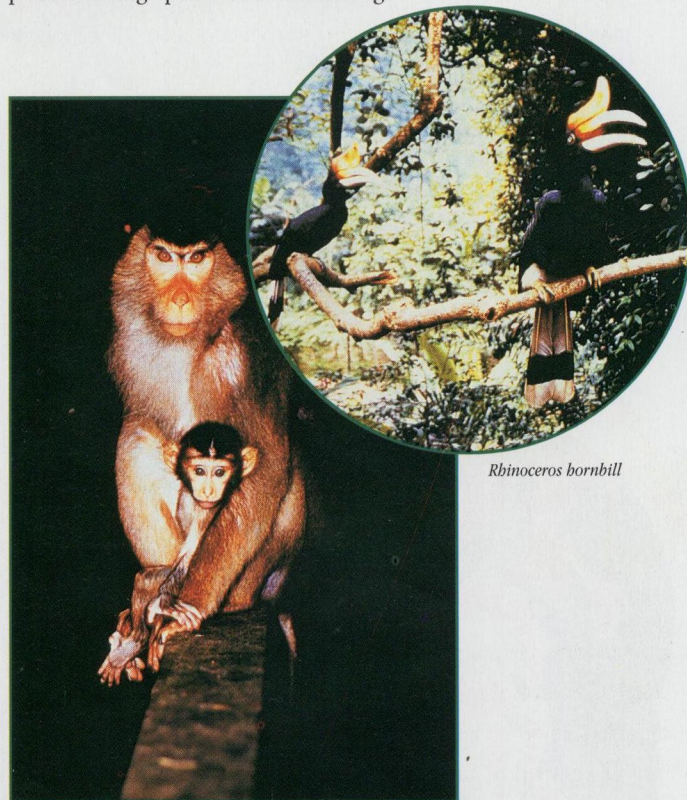


Bill fletcher

Unlike the African savannah, wildlife in the lowland rainforests of Borneo is not always easy to sight. To spot nocturnal creatures like the leopard cat or clouded leopard who only wake and hunt for food in the dark, one must be prepared to forego sleep and spend many hours waiting and watching patiently.

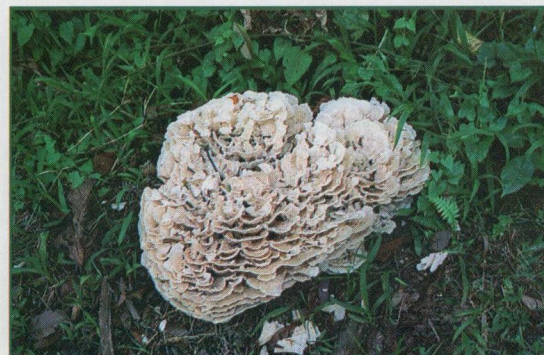
The many viewing platforms perched on high plateaus overlook panoramic vistas and observation decks attached to mighty tropical timbers allow a visitor closer access into the forest canopy.

Some of the special activities at Danum are the canopy walkway and night drives in search of wildlife in open jeeps equipped with spotlights to flush the nocturnal dwellers from the undergrowth. The 27 meter high L-shaped canopy walkway anchored by sturdy Mengaris and Majau trees gives visitors a bird's eye view of the forest and is a perfect vantage point for bird watching.



Long-tailed macaque

Rhinoceros hornbill



Wild mushrooms

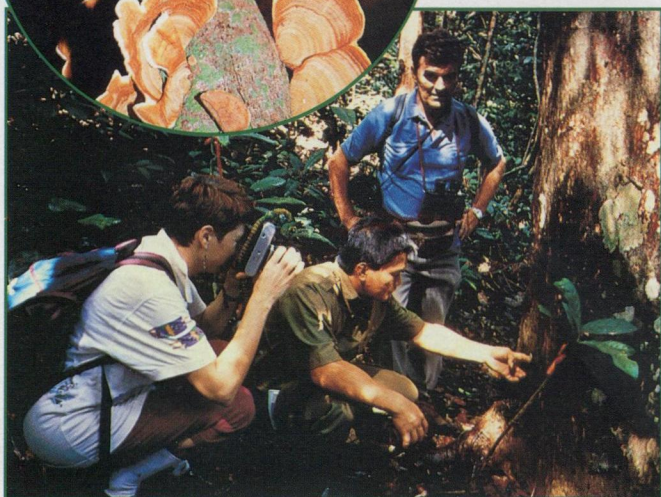
Activities

Although Danum Valley is essentially a conservation area it is also a wonderful retreat for nature lovers and naturalists. Among the many nature activities the Borneo Rainforest Lodge provides are:

- nature walks with knowledgeable guides who will point out interesting flora and fauna and lead you through undisturbed riverine and lowland dipterocarp forests.
- jungle wildlife treks along an escarpment trail with panoramic views over orangutan habitats
- canopy walkway where bird watching can be carried out
- visits to an ancient Kadazandusun burial site
- night safari drive in open jeeps in search of wildlife
- refreshing swims in rivers and waterfalls
- day trips to Danum Valley Field Center
- slide presentations by naturalists
- guided tours to reforestation and research areas



One of the varieties of fungi to be found in Danum

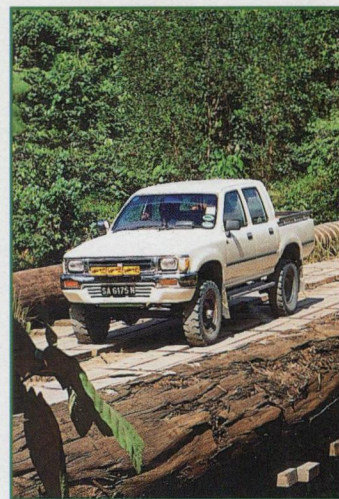


Nature walk with an experienced field guide

Getting to Danum Valley

Danum Valley is located 80 kilometers inland from Lahad Datu on Sabah's east coast. The journey takes approximately 2 hours with the first 15 kilometers being the main Lahad Datu-Tawau road. The rest of the ride is on an unsealed but well maintained private logging road.

While it is possible to take your own transport into the Valley, permits will have to be obtained beforehand. It is thus better to avail yourselves of the pick-up service provided by Borneo Rainforest Lodge through Borneo Nature Tours Sdn Bhd from Lahad Datu airport.



Transfer to Borneo Rainforest Lodge by landrover

Bordered by the Segama and Danum Rivers, Danum Valley is a rugged terrain of gently sloping inclines with elevation less than 760 meters in most places, descending into level riverine habitats. Three summits in the interior of Danum, the highest reaching 1,093 meters, give way to a rolling plateau on the western side and form the headwaters of the Segama River which traverses through a continuous series of gorges, of which only a couple are accessible by foot.

Accommodation

The Borneo Rainforest Lodge (BRL) is the only accommodation facility in Danum. Located beside the lovely Danum River, the lodge offers 23 bungalows which can accommodate up to 60 persons.

The lodge offers fully guided nature walks on the extensive trail system, night drives and walks as well as day visits to Danum Valley Field Center, a research, training and rehabilitation center.

Made from river stone and core logs, the chalets are designed along the lines of traditional Kadazandusun dwellings and linked together by



Borneo Rainforest Lodge

walkways. The lodge is open 12 months a year. A three-day, two-night stay is encouraged. Full board accommodation package rates start from RM350 per person.

There is also a camped facility (tented camp) seven kilometers from the lodge where visitors can spend the night under the watchful protection of a field guide. Packages start at RM250 per person.

Apart from the nature walks, trekking and bird watching, the lodge also provides the services of guides and arranges for angling trips, river rafting, extended night drives and many other activities. Contact Borneo Nature Tours Sdn Bhd for further information at tel: 089-880 207 / 880 206 or fax: 089-885 051 e-mail: ijl@po.jaring.my.

Ancient giants of the dipterocarp forest



Flowers of every hue lend colour to the denseness of Danum

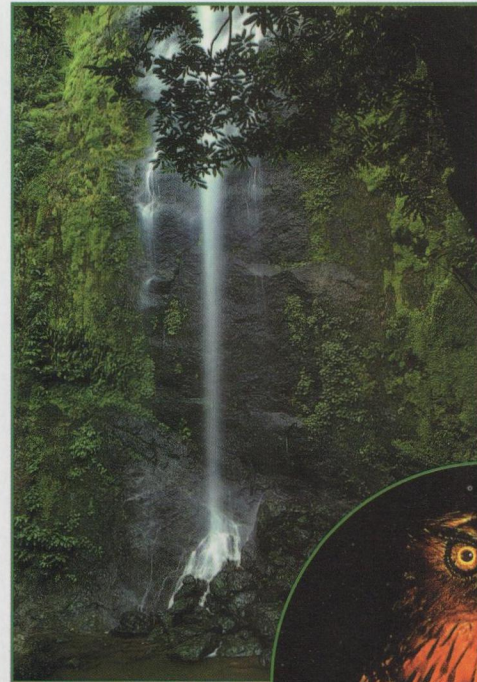


Practical Tips

Visitors are advised to bring along light cotton tops, long pants and sturdy walking or hiking shoes and a container of drinking water to prevent dehydration during their walks.

There are nominal charges imposed on visitors to Danum Valley. Entrance permit fees range from RM4 per day to RM30 for a residential visit. A fee is also levied for the use of cameras and video cameras. Collections go to a trust fund for conservation activities.

Visitors are reminded not to hurt, frighten or disturb any animal or bird; or attempt to smuggle any forest inhabitant out of the Valley. There is a penalty for defacing, destroying or harming the flora and fauna in Danum.

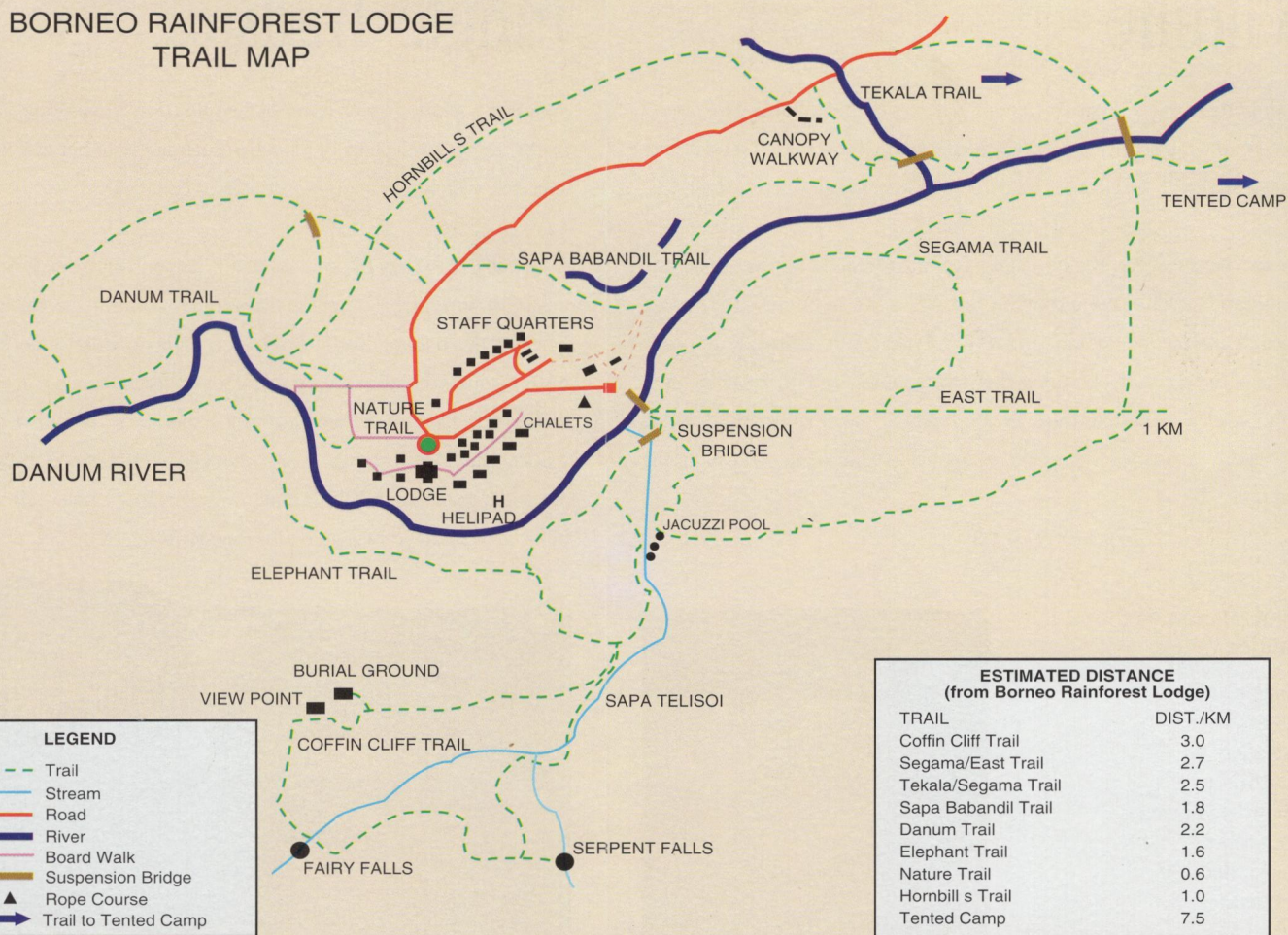


Serpent Falls

The Buffy Fish Owl



BORNEO RAINFOREST LODGE TRAIL MAP



A refreshing site at
Danum Valley Field
Center